

Record

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Competition lively at state tournaments

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

While the competitive aspect of the state Bible Drill and the Speaker's Tournament isn't frequently noted, just ask the students participating at this level if it's all that "easy."

The 2003 Selection Tournaments for Bible drillers and speakers were held at Alta Woods Church in Jackson on April 12. The event is sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministries (DFM) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and funded by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

The day's events included the Youth Speaker's Tournament, the Youth Junior High Bible Drill Tournament, and the Scholarship Tournament.

The Youth Speaker's Tournament is designed to stimulate growth toward Christian maturity by asking youth to speak seriously about their Christian commitment. This year's winners were Jay Brandon, Highland Colony Church, Metro Association, first place; Evan Mumbower, First Church, Jackson, second place; Nickolee Tedder, Midway Church, Lauderdale Association, third place; and Brandon Hembree, Bellevue Church, Lamar Association, fourth place.

"I first heard about the Speaker's Tournament last year from another partici-



TOP SPEAKERS — 2003 Speaker's Tournament participants included (from left) Shad White, Sandersville Church, Jones Association; Dustin Gentry, Williamsville Church, Attala Association; Jenny Savely, First Church Pontotoc, Pontotoc Association; Brandon Hembree, fourth place winner, Bellevue Church, Lamar Association; Nickolee Tedder, third place winner, Midway Church, Lauderdale Association; Evan Mumbower, second place winner, First Church Jackson, Metro Association; and Jay Brandon, first place winner, Highland Colony Church, Metro Association. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

pant," said Mumbower. "I chose 'Called to Die' as my topic. To get ready, I put together a manuscript and did the associational tournament. It probably took me a couple of months to get ready for this."

"I actually started with another topic before choosing the one I stayed with," said Hembree. "We had twelve topics to choose from, but I'm glad I settled with the one I did."

All the participants dealt at some point with fear. "This may sound like a Sunday School answer, but I got through it by focusing on God," said Tedder. "I just shared what was on my heart."

While not all the winners had had any classes or training, were experienced speaking before groups. "I just went over and over my manuscript, reading it and practicing it at home," said Mumbower. "It's not about getting every word right; it's just getting the point across," he said.

Tedder agreed. "When you write from the heart, you don't have to memorize it. It's your life — you should be sharing what you live every day."

All four winners agreed that the audience was very supportive, and they would all be willing to share their speeches with other churches or youth groups.

For high school seniors who have been participating in Bible drills for nine years, the scholarship drill has its own special challenges. Participants at this level have the opportunity to receive significant scholarships from their choice of the state's Baptist-affiliated colleges: Mississippi College in Clinton, William Carey College in Hattiesburg, or Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

Scholarships range from annual cash scholarships of \$600 to Blue Mountain College for the second and third place winners, to four-year full tuition scholarships at William Carey College, and four-year room and board scholarships at Mississippi College for first place winners.

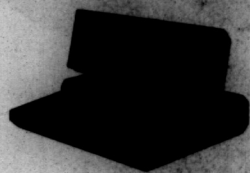
Needless to say, the stakes are high for participants in the scholarship drill, and the tension in the room during the final drills bears witness to the hard work each participant has put into getting to this level.

This year's winners of the scholarship drill were Maegan Smith, Rocky Creek Church, George Association, first place; Dustin Gentry, Williamsville Church, Attala Association, second place; and Jeffery Cooper, Lakeshore Church, Metro Association, third place.

(See Tournaments on page five)

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS — 2003 Youth Bible Drill scholarship winners were (from left) Jeffery Cooper, third place, Lakeshore Church, Metro Association; Dustin Gentry, second place, Williamsville Church, Attala Association; and Maegan Smith, first place, Rocky Creek Church, George Association. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



ONE



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Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org**

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The road map to peace at Easter

This is not the first Easter during which there is war somewhere in the world. Quite the contrary. It would be a rare Easter indeed if the world were to be at peace while we celebrate the Prince of Peace. Considering human nature, an Easter at peace would surely be a record of one — if it ever did happen. We know it won't happen this year.

The world is about as from being at peace at it possibly could be on this Easter 2003. As a matter of fact, the Evil One and his minions seems to be putting in a lot more overtime this year to ensure the world remains in an uproar. As the war in Iraq winds down, we are discovering that many of our ersatz allies are really scheming adversaries.

Even Mississippi Baptists are experiencing a breakdown in peace, with what seems to be a record number of churches at war with themselves over pastors, programs, and assorted other fine details of running a church. The quest for power, and with it the ability to shape the future direction of a church, seem to be at the root of many of those conflicts.

One Mississippi pastor provides a relevant example. "On my first Sunday, people in the church I hadn't even met yet came up to me and said, 'We won't be supporting you because we didn't like the search committee that picked you.' Another Mississippi pastor quoted a longtime church member (and troublemaker) as saying, "That's all right, preacher. I'll be here after you're gone. I'll just wait you out and have my way."

To be fair, there are probably enough preachers and church staffers of the same ilk to run a good race with diabolical laymen. No member of the human race is immune from the disease of megalomania. It just seems to be more pronounced in church because Christians aren't supposed to act that way. While Jesus himself admitted that His ministry was divisive (Luke



13:49-53), in light of the mission he left for us to fulfill (Matthew 28:18-20) it's hard to imagine He meant for us to fan controversy within His churches to the extent that the Great Commission is marginalized.

How can we possibly introduce the Prince of Peace to a lost world when we are at war among ourselves? Why would a lost person want to be like us, if we are warlike and infantile just like the world? A lost person is living in that type of world right now, so why should he join us for more of the same? If he lives in a world where his mother and father argue bitterly, why would he join a fellowship where the brothers and sisters argue just as bitterly? If she already sees too much backstabbing at her job, why would she want more of the same at church?

We have a long way to go as a church, but thanks be to God that He has seen fit to give us the road map in Jesus Christ. How much better off we would be if we could only stay focused on Him. How much easier it would be to accomplish our task, the only task that matters for eternity, if the name of Jesus were constantly in our hearts and continually on our lips.

We can achieve such a radical change in attitude. With Easter upon us, by the grace and power of Almighty God, may we rededicate ourselves and our churches to reaching every living soul on this planet with the Good News that Jesus loves them and gave His life for them — and let us not rest until that mission is finished.

Only then will Easter truly dawn in peace.

GUEST OPINION:

Don't let the world get you down

By Larry Burkett, chairman
Crown Financial Ministries, Gainesville, Ga.

Because of world conditions, it's not unusual these days for people to feel as if they're on a fast moving merry-go-round and that the control handle has malfunctioned. Some people struggle with issues of unemployment and fears, resulting from an unstable investment economy. Others dread the cloud of uncertainty, resulting from the threats of war.

As an individual, there's not much you can do about the economic roller coaster, or the situations in Iraq or North Korea, but there are some things you can do about personal unemployment.

As a Christian, one of the best things you can do, whether employed or not, is to be sure that you're spiritually healthy. Are you currently walking with the Lord, trusting Him and spending adequate time in Bible study and prayer?

There's nothing like God's Word to lift your spirits. Read the Psalms and also Philipians, because you'll find that they can provide comfort and inspiration. In other words, check your spiritual pulse, and be sure you're trusting God as your provider.

Next, take a realistic inventory of your assets as a person

and as an employee. Creatively think of how many different ways you can market these personal assets. Identify your transferable skills and career focus. By discovering your strengths for the workplace, you'll be able to present these to a potential employer.

Then, outline your work history to show the responsibilities you've had, the types of work you've done and your successes in those responsibilities. Develop a one-page resume (longer if you've been employed 10 years in the same field), and be aware of how you can tailor it to fit particular job openings.

You aren't the only unemployed person around. Don't get down on yourself or try to handle the situation on your own. Get involved with a good accountability or support group.

Seek out at least one primary support relationship besides your spouse to help serve as a career coach. Don't dwell on negatives, but at the same time be able to share with God and other believers your feelings of loss, anger, depression and stress.

If you're married, be sure that your spouse and children get plenty of your time, and pay special attention to their needs during this trying time.

Take immediate stock of your finances, and develop a short-term financial plan. Be sure to include savings, spendable assets and income — including severance pay or state unemployment compensation.

Establish a short-term budget. You'll have to cut back on nonessential expenses in every way you can during this period. So know your

bottom-line monthly needs, including how much money is required to pay your bills.

If necessary, make arrangements with creditors to reduce payments on a temporary basis. To determine how long you can afford to be without a job, you'll have to project your cash flow and available assets in light of this short-term budget. If you haven't done this, you might suddenly come to the bottom of the well of your personal finances and not know what to do next.

If you need financial assistance or help getting through this transitional period, let your pastor know or call on other believers. You probably wouldn't hesitate to ask for prayer for health needs, so don't be embarrassed to ask for prayer for help with financial needs. Take care of yourself. Eat well, get enough sleep and exercise regularly. Avoid drinking or eating in excess. Maintain a normal daily routine. During non-working hours, relax, read and relate to family members and others. Don't waste time fretting. Instead, trust God. Remember that "My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Baghdad's fall brings Iraq war closer to end

WASHINGTON (BP) — Hundreds of Iraqi citizens, helped by American Marines, toppled a huge statue of Saddam Hussein in the middle of Firdos Square in Baghdad April 9, bringing a symbolic close to nearly 30 years of the dictator's reign, while coalition forces continued to move closer to final victory in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Iraqis tied a rope around the Hussein statue's neck and then took turns pounding at the base of the monument before U.S. Marines helped with a tank recovery vehicle to pull the statue to the ground.

Iraqis then jumped and stomped on the statue, which had been erected last April 28 to celebrate Hussein's birthday.

Iraqis then pulled the head of the Saddam statue through the streets, CNN reported.

The fallen statue is one of the most definitive proofs yet of President Bush's words about the American objective. A timeline of the president's remarks related to Operation Iraqi Freedom:

• **March 17:** In an internationally televised speech, the president said Hussein and his sons had 48 hours to leave Iraq or face a military invasion led by the United States. America is prepared to "apply the full force and might of our military" against Hussein's regime, Bush said. "The terrorist threat to America and the world will be diminished the moment that Saddam Hussein is disarmed."

- **March 19:** "Now that conflict has come, the only way to limit its duration is to apply decisive force. And I assure

you, this will not be a campaign of half measures, and we will accept no outcome but victory," Bush said in an address to the nation after the initial airstrike.

"My fellow citizens, the dangers to our country and the world will be overcome. We will pass through this time of peril and carry on the work of

"Our military is making good progress in Iraq; yet this war is far from over," the president said. "As they approach Baghdad, our fighting units are facing the most desperate elements of a doomed regime. We cannot know the duration of this war, but we are prepared for the battle ahead. We cannot predict the final day of the Iraqi regime, but I can assure you, and I assure the long-suffering people of Iraq, there will be a day of reckoning for the Iraqi regime, and that day is drawing near."

• **March 28:** "It isn't a matter of timetable; it's a matter of victory," Bush said in a joint news conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in Washington.

"And the Iraqi people have got to know that. They've got to know that they will be liberated and Saddam Hussein will be removed, no matter how long it takes."

• **March 31:** "Our victory will mean the end of a tyrant who rules by fear and torture. Our victory will remove a sponsor of terror, armed with weapons of terror. Our victory will uphold the just demands of the United Nations and the civilized world," the president said at the port of Philadelphia. "And when victory comes, it will be shared by the long-suffering people of Iraq, who deserve freedom and dignity."

• **April 4:** "A vise is closing, and the days of a brutal regime are coming to an end," the president said at Camp Lejeune, N.C. "Our armed services have performed brilliantly in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Moving a massive force over 200 miles of enemy territory in a matter of days is a superb achievement," Bush said. "Yet there is work ahead for our coal-

tion, for the American Armed Forces and for the United States Marines. Having traveled hundreds of miles, we will now go the last 200 yards. The course is set. We're on the advance. Our destination is Baghdad, and we will accept nothing less than complete and final victory."

• **April 8:** "In fighting this war, we're taking every precaution to protect innocent life," the president said in a joint news conference with Blair in Belfast, Northern Ireland. "We're showing respect for the Iraqi people, respect for their culture. There will be difficult fighting ahead, yet the outcome is not in doubt: Iraq will be free...."

"I don't know whether he survived. The only thing I know is he's losing power," Bush said in response to a question about whether Hussein was killed in the most recent strike on a target of opportunity.

"The only thing I can tell you is that [the] grip I used to describe that Saddam had around the throats of the Iraqi people [is] loosening. I can't tell you if all 10 fingers are off the throat, but finger by finger, it's coming off," the president said.

Prior to the war, at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington Feb. 6, Bush characteristically turned to God for help in dealing with the Iraqi conflict.

"We pray for wisdom to know and to do what is right," he said. "And we pray for God's peace in the affairs of men...."

"We can be confident in America's cause in the world," the president said. "Our nation is dedicated to the equal and undeniable worth of every person... We can also be confident in the ways of Providence, even when they are far from our understanding," he said.



COMING DOWN — The towering statue of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in Firdos Square in downtown Baghdad begins its tumble to the ground on April 9. In video and photographs broadcast live around the world, billions of people watched as the symbol of the strongman's reign of terror was brought low. (BP photo)

peace. We will defend our freedom. We will bring freedom to others and we will prevail."

• **March 27:** "Over the last week the world has witnessed the skill and honor and resolve of our military in the course of battle," Bush said at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. "We have seen the character of this new generation of American armed forces. We've seen their daring against ruthless enemies and their decency to an oppressed people. Millions of Americans are proud of our military, and so am I. I am honored to be the commander in chief...."

10 years ago

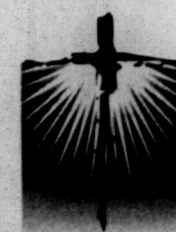
A new Christian Sex Education Series is offered by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. With curriculum designed for young children through adults, the series will deal not only with physiological and biological factors, but also with Christian values and ideals for relationships.

20 years ago

Dale Moody, professor at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., is placed on a one-year leave of absence. Moody has been the subject of criticism about his views on "falling from grace," and his published statements regarding the seminary's Abstract of Principles.

50 years ago

Billy Graham presents "Oiltown, U.S.A.," which according to the press release in The Baptist Record was "filmed in fabulous Houston, Texas," and is "in breath-taking natural color." The film is to be shown at the Jackson City Auditorium.

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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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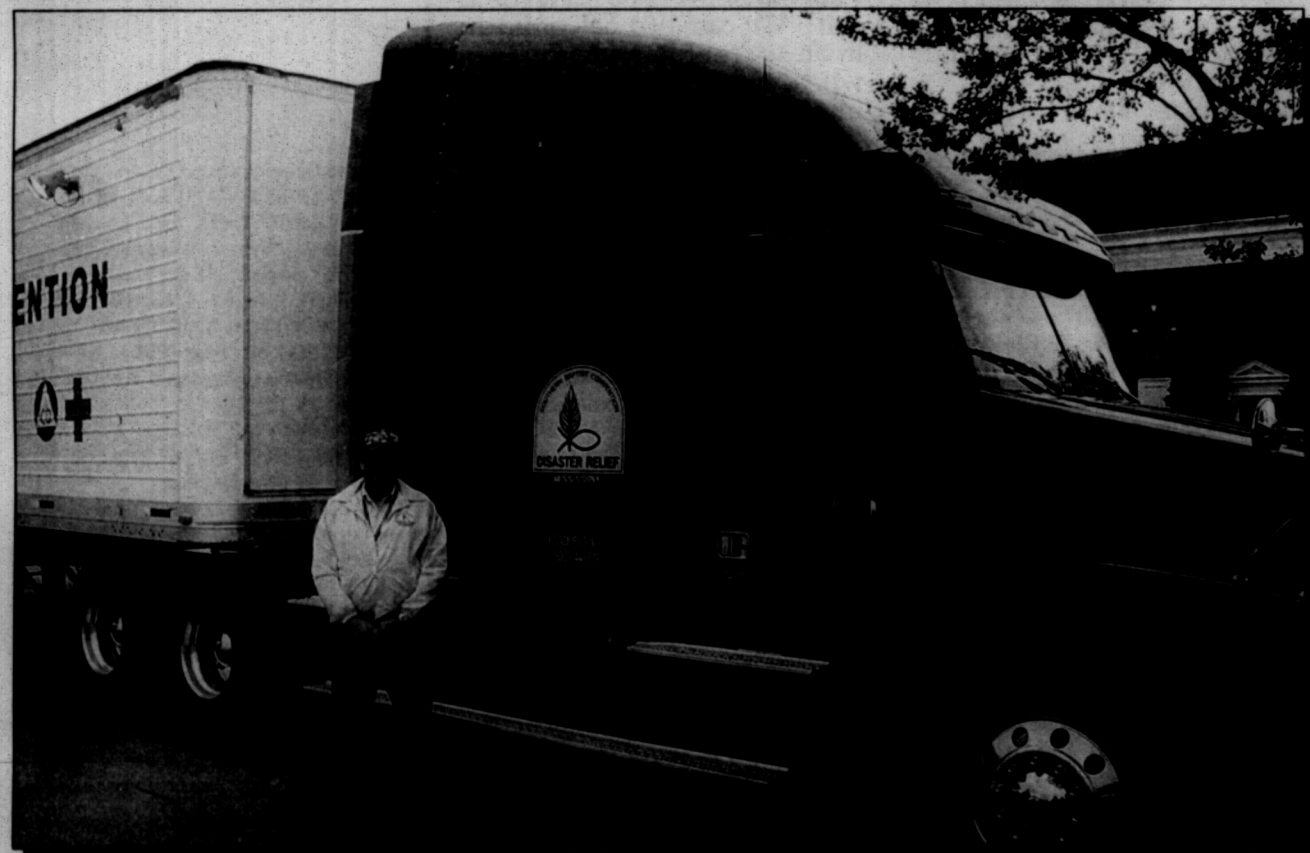
Hemphill exits Southwestern for EKG post

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Kenneth S. Hemphill announced his retirement as president of Southwestern Seminary on April 8 to take a new position as national strategist for the Southern Baptist Convention Empowering Kingdom Growth (EKG) movement.

Hemphill's new work, after nine years as president of Southwestern, will be a joint venture with the SBC Executive Committee and LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, to begin this summer.

Hemphill, who turns 55 April 17, told seminary trustees he looks forward to returning to the Southwestern campus for special events and "whenever I am invited."

NEW WHEELS — The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit's new 18-wheeler was pressed into service for the first time during the unit's deployment after severe weather in the Lincoln County area on April 6. Ronnie Ferrell of Isola (pictured), the truck was purchased in January. Ferrell directed the unit during the Lincoln County deployment. (BR photo by Tony Martin)



Rankin sets deadline for BFM affirmation

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin has asked missionaries who have not yet affirmed the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) to make their decisions by May 5.

He is appealing to the workers to either promise to work in harmony with the faith statement or tender their resignations by that date. Rankin said he will ask IMB trustees to terminate the service of those who continue to refuse accountability to the beliefs of Southern Baptist churches.

In a letter sent April 11 to 18 missionary units (31 people), Rankin noted that he asked Southern Baptist field personnel to affirm the revised faith statement more than a year ago. Since then, 98.7% of the board's 5,500 overseas workers have affirmed the document.

Rankin wrote to one missionary: "I am grateful for your years of service and would be delighted if you should decide to affirm the current Baptist Faith and Message and continue your effective ministry with the IMB. Apart from that, I would like to ask that you consider resigning rather than maintaining a position that would undermine the integrity and credibility of the IMB. If I do not hear from you regarding one of these options by May 5, 2003, I will be recommending that the board take action to terminate your service in their May meeting."

"For the sake of the people you serve and our Great Commission task, I pray that you might reconsider your position and join your fellow missionaries in cooperating with the request I have made."

Rankin said he believes several of the missionaries will yet choose to affirm the faith statement and some may choose to resign rather than force a termination action.

Letters to three of the missionary units, however, do not give them the option of affirming the 2000 BF&M but ask them to resign. Those six workers "have clearly and publicly stated positions contrary to the BFM that are beyond acceptable para-

meters. They have adamantly refused to be accountable to the IMB and Southern Baptist churches as requested," Rankin said.

Names of the missionaries receiving the letters are not being released by IMB.

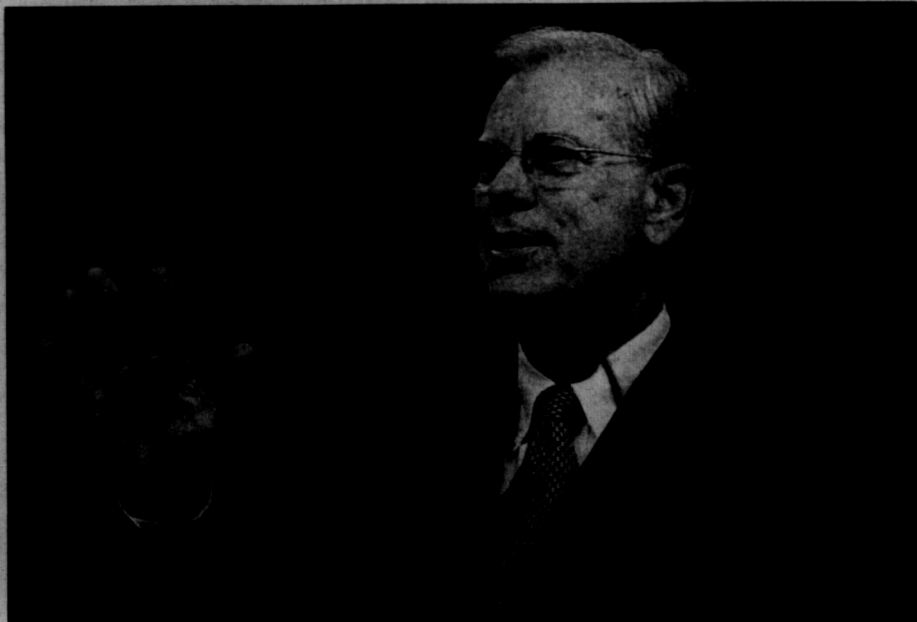
Southern Baptists have always expected missionary beliefs to reflect the beliefs of the churches that send and support them, Rankin noted. All missionaries on the field made a similar affirmation of earlier versions of the Baptist Faith and Message when they were appointed.

The affirmation process even allows a worker to note minor disagreements and continue to serve, as long as the missionary promises to work "in accordance with and not contrary to" the faith statement.

"We wanted this to be a decision the missionaries make for themselves," Rankin said. "We wanted to give every missionary ample time to consider his or her response. If a missionary decides he or she cannot affirm it and therefore cannot continue serving through the IMB, we regret that but appreciate the integrity of conscience it demonstrates."

In the past year, 16 missionary units (32 people) submitted resignations that cited Rankin's request as a factor in their decisions. The resignations of another four units (eight people) are expected at the May trustee meeting. One missionary couple has decided to resign in August.

Four of the missionary units receiving letters are currently on stateside assign-



Rankin

ment and nine units are overseas. Five units who qualify are being offered the option of retiring with full benefits.

"We have total confidence in our missionaries, and my initial letter was a collective appeal to assure Southern Baptists of the doctrinal integrity of the missionaries they send and support," Rankin said.

"However, the failure of some to affirm their accountability undercuts the credibility and support of all missionaries serving with the IMB in a time of remarkable evangelistic harvest and unprecedented opportunities," he continued.

"We deeply regret losing any missionary, but we are accountable to the churches in this matter. If a missionary's disagreements are so great that he or she cannot in good conscience promise to work in harmony with the BF&M, we feel he or she has an obligation to Southern Baptists to tell them so."

"This final letter is to once again appeal to these missionaries to affirm they will work in accord with the Baptist Faith and Message."

Disaster Relief Unit activated after Lincoln storms

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Two separate bands of storms raced through Mississippi April 6, leaving a path of uprooted trees, flooding, hail, and property damage.

The Disaster Relief Unit of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) was activated and dispatched to Brookhaven in Lincoln to aid in feeding residents and workers in one of the hardest hit areas of the state.

One band of storms passed through the state about noon, with a second band passing through five hours later. The second band, fiercer than the first, was responsible for the worst damage in the north Lincoln County community of Loyd Star, north of Brookhaven.

Several mobile homes were overturned, with countless trees uprooted and power lines snapped. About 17,000 central Mississippi homes were without power Sunday night. About five residents of the area were sent to local hospitals.

According to an article in the April 7 issue of the Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson, "This second one just kind of cropped up ... and just intensified into a possible tornado," said Robert Latham, Mississippi Emergency Management executive director. "The damage is bad enough that it will probably exceed the local resources and capabilities of Lincoln County."

The Disaster Relief team set up the feeding unit in the parking lot of First Church, Brookhaven, on April 7.

According to Mark Lott, consultant in the Men's Ministry department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), the unit had prepared 2100 meals by the evening of April 8.

"We aren't preparing breakfast this time around," said Lott. "All the meals are being prepared here and the Red Cross is distributing them."

According to Lott, the Red Cross was moved north to the Jackson area, where flooding was more severe than originally expected.

Approximately eight volunteers assisted in clean-up and food preparation, along with Lott and Jim Didlake, director of the MBCB Men's Ministry Department.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit is funded by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

For more information, contact Didlake at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3338 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 338. E-mail: jdidlake@mbcb.org.

EASTER: KEEPING IT REAL

For some people the words, "keep it real," have become a part of their cultural vocabulary. Just over the past few days I've heard two different interviews. One was with a politician and the other was with a sports figure. In both cases, the reporter doing the interviewing said, "Now, let's keep it real." Generally speaking, what they mean is, "Let's keep the facts straight. Let's don't distort reality with some personal opinion or spin of the issues. Let's keep it real."

When it comes to celebrating Easter, that might be the best advice for us to hear — "Keep it Real!" I'm not just talking about us recoiling from all of the commercial and cultural things that Easter has become — everything from bunny rabbits to new apparel, to the emphasis on a "Spring Fling." And, I'm not just talking about how Christians have gotten away from the essentials of Easter and only highlight its serene and sterile aspects.

At times, the church has been accused of looking at Easter through stained glass, and at times, that accusation has probably been right on target. Stained glass in our churches may be beautiful and it may tell a remarkable story in just one snapshot, but it also presents a fixed, clean, somewhat removed from reality, picture of what the Lord came here to do and wants to do in us now. When it comes to Easter, it is important that we keep it real.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

In that light, may I share with you that Easter is bad. In keeping it real, it is important to remember that never has someone so good been treated as bad as Jesus was when He was placed on the cross. The sinless Son of God not only was nailed to a cross by wicked men and cruel hands, but He hung there having all of my sins and all of your sins placed upon Him. What does that mean? Well, have you ever done something wrong and that sin hurt you and broke the hearts of those around you and brought sorrow to the heart of God? Do you remember what that felt like — just that one incident? You may have thought about it many times and wanted to go back and just relive that moment. You wanted to go back and undo what you had done — "un-sin!" Yet, you can't reverse the clock. Well, when Jesus died on the cross, every sin, with all of its painful tentacles, was put on Jesus and He who knew no sin became sin for us. Easter was bad.

If we keep Easter real, it is not only bad, but Easter is sad. Can you imagine the disciples thinking that they were follow-

ing someone who was going to change the world? Believing that, they left jobs, listened and learned from Him, and pinned all of their future on Him. Then, they saw their vision, their hopes, and their dreams, all shattered. They must have been crushed and disappointment must have reigned supreme. Easter is about things that are sad.

Even as you read this, you may clearly identify with "sad." You, too, may have had dreams, aspirations, and images of what life was going to be like and things didn't work out the way you had hoped. You trusted God. You thought you were following Him. You assumed that He was just going to take care of every bad thing that was going to come down the road, and now it looks like He has either let you down or your faith was not strong enough and you are sad. In some limited ways I understand, but you can rest assured that God totally understands.

Can you imagine those three days after the cross and what must have been going on in the minds of the disciples? They were probably thinking, "Where

do we go from here?" "How do we face tomorrow?" "How can we put life together where it makes any sense?" "How could God Himself intervene and make some sort of sense out of the sadness of our dilemma?" I am confident that the disciples, though they had heard Jesus talk about His resurrection, could not understand nor figure it out. I'm also confident that there was no way they could see daylight in the darkness of their thoughts. They were sad! That is being real about Easter and it may be reality in your life.

Now finally, in keeping it real, we need to realize that Easter is not only about something bad, or sad, but it is also about being glad. Jesus is alive! The tomb is empty! The grave lost! Sin is defeated! Easter is about God doing what had never before been done in human history. It is a time of miracle! It is a time incredible! It is a time to marvel! It is a time of praise! It is a time to simply reflect and say thank you God for doing what I would have never figured out, and if I had, I would not have been able to implement a solution. Easter is about being glad that God was, is, and will continue to be on His throne!

I pray that all across our state, stretching all across the land, and circling the globe, people will gather to worship this Sunday and be infested with delight, infected with joy, and injected with new and everlasting hopes.

Be real! Be glad! He is alive!

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EBB JW TVSOCWVH RN
PSOW, GWIEDHW RN
XAW OWP PSOW; NRV
SX SH IDX RNN NVRU
JRDV URDXA.
QRWB ROW: NSZW

Clue: Q = J

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 30:5

Tournaments (continued from page one)

Winning the scholarship drill is something of a family tradition for the Smiths. Maegan's brother Eric won the same drill several years ago. Maegan Smith plans to attend Mississippi College in the fall.

"Up there, I honestly didn't think I could do it," she said, "but the drill has gotten easier over the years."

"Being in Bible drills has been so important to me over the years," she continued. "During the school year, when faced with temptations, I'd remember verses I'd learned, and that would help."

The Junior High Tournament is designed to select a representative for the

Demonstration Drill to be held at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. All other participants in the final drill of the tournament are invited to participate in a special Demonstration Drill at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on July 24-26.

The DFM pays travel and conference expenses for winners and one adult chaperone. Bethany Ellis, Courtland Church, Panola Association, won first place; Maggie Gill, First Church Byhalia, Marshall Association, placed second; and Courtney Ferguson, Oakhurst Church, North Delta Association, placed third.

One special treat during the Selection

Tournament this year was an adult demonstration drill. Adults from First Church, Clinton, demonstrated that "you're never too old" to participate in Bible drills.

DFM Director Marcus Peagler encouraged other adult groups wanting to try their hands at Bible drills to contact the department, with the potential of having more adults participate in Bible drills at next year's tournament.

Harvey Ellis, consultant in the DFM department, took a moment to



reflect on his own Bible drill experiences.

"Learning Scripture passages didn't mean as much to me when I was younger," he said. "I didn't always know what they meant, but later they evolved to mean so much to me. Scholarships are important, but we can't lose sight of the fact that we want students and their families to grow to be more Christlike. If you've spent nine years in Bible drills, from fourth through 12th grade, you're not likely to forget the verses you've learned. They just grow to be more meaningful."

For more information on the tournaments, contact Harvey Ellis, DFM consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3286 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 286. E-mail: hgellis@mbcb.org.

BEST DRILLERS — 2003
Junior High Bible Drill Tournament winners were (from left) Bethany Ellis, first place, Courtland Church, Panola Association; Maggie Gill, second place, First Church Byhalia, Marshall Association; Courtney Ferguson, third place, Oakhurst Church, North Delta Association; and Harvey Ellis, consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (BP photo by Tony Martin)



NEVER TOO OLD — Adult Bible drillers from First Church, Clinton, showed their scriptural expertise during an exhibition drill at the 2003 Selection Tournament at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, on April 12. (BP photo by Tony Martin)

JUST FOR THE RECORD



RAs of Midway Church, Meridian

The RAs of Midway Church, Meridian, recently rode their bikes to raise money for a missionary family in

T.J. Goodwin, Dalton Hinson, (back) Richard Knox, Daniel Knox, Aubrey Pogue, Charles Yerby, and Roger Goodwin.

Central Church, Meridian, will present Jesus, The One and Only on Easter Sunday, April 20, at 10:45 a.m.

Pass Road Church, Gulfport, will host Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames on May 4-6 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. Reservations can be made for groups of 15 or more. For more information, call (228) 863-1697.

Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, will hold a Good Friday service on April 18 at 6:30 p.m. and an Easter sunrise service on April 20 at 6:30 a.m.

with Sunday School at 6:30 a.m. and a fellowship and egg hunt at 8:30 a.m.

New Haven Church, Weir, will hold a worship service on April 20 at 7 a.m., a fellowship breakfast at 8 a.m., and

an egg hunt at 9 a.m.

Dennis Arnold and Deliverance will be in concert May 3 at 7 p.m. at First Church, Mathiston.

Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, will present The Trial of Jesus on April 18 at 7 p.m. All are invited.

The Celebration Choir and drama ministry of **Agricola Church, Lucedale**, will present Bow the Knee, directed by Brad Day, April 19-20 at 7 p.m.

First Church, Runnelstown, burned the note on their sanctuary in December. Their first service in the new sanctuary was held in April 1999.

Friendship Church, Columbus, held on dedication service for their church playground on March 30. Jacob Hanson and fellow scouts and scoutmasters built the playground as part of Hanson's Eagle Scout leadership project. Pictured (from left) are James Mattison, Robbie Wilson, Royce Gilmore, Mike Hanson, J.C. Mitchell, interim pastor, and Hanson.

East Louisville Church, Louisville, will host a Maundy Thursday service on April 17 at 7 p.m. The church will also host a sunrise service on Easter followed by a breakfast, Sunday School, and a musical.

Vox Dei, a contemporary Christian band, recently performed at East Louisville Church, Louisville. For more information about the band, call (662) 773-2249.

A Celebration Sunday will be held April 20 to constitute **Brandon Church, Brandon**, at Brandon High School. An Easter worship begins at 9 a.m. with a reception at 10 a.m. and a ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Crossgates Church, Brandon, will hold an Easter service on April 20 at 10 a.m. at the Rankin County Multipurpose Building. For more information, call (601) 824-2779.

Springdale Church, Ripley, held revival services on March 23-26. There were 40 professions of faith and several other decisions. The evangelist was Danny Lanier, Northcrest Church, Meridian, and Todd Holloman led worship. Randy Hamilton is pastor.

Parkway Church, Tupelo, will present Bow the Knee: A Dramatic Musical for Easter on April 18 and 20 at 7 p.m.



Note Burning of Runnelstown Church, Runnelstown

Costa Rica. They raised a total of \$755. Pictured (from left, front) are Matt Yerby, Matt Lane, Ryan King, Jared Mowdy,



Mattison, Wilson, Gilmore, Hanson, Mitchell, and Hanson



Shelton & Murrah

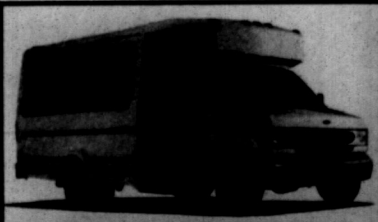
Pictured (from left) are Shelton and Murrah.

The youth of **Bellevue Church, Hattiesburg**, will present a Good Friday Program on April 18 at 7 p.m. The youth will also observe Youth Week April 27-30. An egg hunt will be held on April 19 at 11 a.m. Bring a sack lunch. Eggs and drinks will be provided. Dewey Smith is pastor.

Cross Roads Church, Mathiston, held a Valentine Banquet on February 8. Zachery Shelton and Shea Murrah were named the Little Mr. and Miss for the church. Roy Tidwell is pastor.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 17, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

BAPTIST HYMNALS NEEDED FOR AFRICAN SEMINARY

The only seminary in Africa offering a graduate degree in church music is in Ogbomosho, Nigeria. Currently, most African church choirs sing only the melody of hymns from memory, for they have only the words without music.

Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Department consultant, after teaching a course at this seminary, has a burden to provide our fellow Baptist musicians in Africa with 5,000 copies of the 1991 Baptist Hymnal. Their choirs could then proclaim the theology of our Baptist faith in beautiful four-part harmony! **As of August, 2001, 3,000 hymnals have been given and sent.**

You can help with a financial gift. One hymnal is \$5. A box of 20 is \$100. If you or your church group would like to participate in this ministry, please call Jimmy McCaleb at 601-292-3273, 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail him at jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Checks may be made out to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mailed to:

Jimmy McCaleb
MBCB
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Perry Association Missions Blitz June 23-28

- **WHO?** Mission volunteers of all ages (adult, collegiate, youth, children).
- **WHAT?** A Missions Blitz sponsored by the Perry Association in partnership with Mississippi WMU. During this week volunteers will participate in a variety of ministry projects (ex: VBS, BYBC, prayerwalking, door-to-door outreach, block parties, light construction, and "acts of kindness" such as oil changes, apartment cleanup, and community cleanup).

There will be a *Family Missions* emphasis on Saturday, June 28. Parents, grandparents, and etc.... are encouraged to participate with their children/grandchildren in family projects on Saturday.

- **WHEN?** The Missions Blitz begins on Sunday and concludes on Saturday. The *Family Missions* emphasis will take place on Saturday, June 28.
- **WHERE?** Ministry projects will be held all over the Perry County area.
- **HOW much does it COST?** A \$25 per person ministry fee with a maximum \$50 per family. Volunteers will provide their own housing, meals, and transportation. (Some meals will be provided and housing options are listed in the registration packet.) Participants volunteering only during the *Family Missions* emphasis on Saturday will pay \$5 per person or a maximum of \$15 per family (this includes lunch).
- **HOW to Register?** To receive a registration packet with more information, please contact the Mississippi WMU office at 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail tanderson@mbcb.org. The **DEADLINE to register is June 6**. You may contact the on-site coordinator, Buddy Keyes, at FBC, Richton (601-788-9607).

Reaching Families...Changing Lives

featuring
Richard
Leach

Examine the families around you. You won't have to look too far to see that there are families who are hurting, lonely, and feeling unloved. They are looking for a touch ...

... a touch that could have Everlasting Consequences.

Your Sunday School class may be the vessel that God uses to reach families in your community.

April 22 • FBC, Biloxi

April 24 • FBC, Grenada

6:30-8:30 p.m.

This conference is designed for pastors, staff, Sunday School directors, and all church leadership who have an interest in reaching others for Christ. For more information, call the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.

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For program information, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.

WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT TRAINING TRACK

When you make your reservations for Growing Churches, if you plan to attend the Women's Enrichment Training Track, please indicate this with the Gulfshore Baptist Assembly reservation. There's a limit of 80 leaders in this track. You may want to send at least one leader from your church to attend this special track. For more information, contact Kathy Burns, KBurns@mbcb.org.

2003 Preaching & Worship Conference

Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo
Monday, April 28

Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
Tuesday, April 29

Preaching from the Old Testament

Featured Presenters

WAYLON BAILEY

Waylon Bailey is pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington, La. He is the author of five books, including *The New American Commentary* on Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah, and is also a frequent contributor to biblical and pastoral journals.

BILL CLARK

Bill Clark is a musician and Christian entertainer. Bill Clark and The C Jays appeared on the Ed Sullivan show. As a vocalist and keyboard specialist, Bill is a dynamic worship leader.

- 8:00 a.m. Coffee and Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:00 a.m. Session I: *The Ten Most Important Things I Know About Preaching*
- 10:00 a.m. Inspiration with Bill Clark
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Session II: *Preaching for the Long Haul*
- 12:00 LUNCH (Compliments of P/LD)
- 1:00 p.m. Inspiration with Bill Clark
- 1:30 p.m. Session III: *A Preaching Approach to an Old Testament Book*
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. Session IV: *Sermons Series from Jeremiah*
- 3:45 p.m. Adjourn

For more info, call the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3305, or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.



For more information, contact the MBCB Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3267.

Worship Service

April 27
FBC
Brookhaven
6 p.m.

"The Proof is in the Pudding" MISSISSIPPI HOSPITALITY ROOM

Beth Moore, Living Proof Live, Tupelo, June 6-7

If you and/or your women's group would like to participate by bringing pudding, cakes, cookies, candy, etc., plus the recipe cards to the Hospitality Room, please E-mail: KBurns@mbcb.org, Fax 601-714-7434, or mail: your name, association/church address, your E-mail and phone number to: "The Proof is in the Pudding," WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Collegiates on Mission

Mississippi • COM

New Orleans Bound

May 23-26

\$30

(Includes: transportation, 3 nights lodging & breakfast. Additional cost will include lunch & dinner plus FUN!)

Collegiates will work with a variety of ministries in the French Quarter & surrounding area.

Collegiates on Mission Mission Trip Registration Form

New Orleans, La.

May 23-26, 2003

Registration Deadline: May 16

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____

School _____

E-Mail _____

School You Attend _____

Year in School _____

Missions Experience _____

Return this form to: Mississippi WMU,
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
Make check payable to
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For more information, contact Tammy Anderson in the state WMU office at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 323, or E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org.

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Conference Leadership

John Clendinning
MBCB Sunday School Department

Matt Buckles
MBCB Pastor/Leadership
Development Department

Dale Holloway
NAMB Regional Bivocational
Consultant

Discipleship Resource Showcase



Pray this day for...

April 18 - May 1, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"If you look to the world, you will be distressed. If you look inside yourself, you will be depressed. If you look at Jesus, you will find rest." Corrie Ten Boon who suffered at Auschwitz

EASTER - Jesus Christ was "delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25). A dead Savior cannot save anybody. The Resurrection proves that Jesus Christ is what He claimed to be, the very Son of God. Praise God we have a living Savior!

Mark Porter of Cheyenne, Wyo. is a director of area missions in southeast Wyoming. Pray for the bi-vocational pastors whose jobs are far from their churches, and for the outreach Bible study developed by the association to help churches start new missions.

For: (1) Reaching Families, Changing Lives, FBC, Biloxi, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (SS); (2) Remember in prayer missionaries involved in various areas of theological education. Ask that they might be used of God to be good examples as evangelists and church planters as they serve as mentors for their students.

Massive relief efforts will follow the action in Iraq. What better way to meet their physical needs than to offer the greatest gift of all - the way to eternal peace? Ask God to mobilize His people to commit to give, go and pray so that the message of Christ will overwhelm the darkness. This is a difficult hour for the Iraqi people, so please pray that dawn's light will come quickly.

For: (1) Reaching Families, Changing Lives, FBC, Grenada, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (S S); (2) Campers On Mission Rally, 24-27, Central Hills, Kosciusko (MM); (3) Pray today for Commissioner John White of the British Indian Ocean Territory (south of India and east of Seychelles).

The French governmental system provides financial aid to those women who have children and are not married. When a woman becomes a Christian and is involved in a life-in relationship, there is a crisis of belief. Please pray that God's Spirit would give wisdom in each individual case and that these women would be able to make decisions that glorify Christ.

The Church in Your Home Team is training university students of the Dominican Republic to start churches in homes. They write, "We are very excited about three new house churches that are making plans to begin this month. Pray that each church will multiply and 'give birth' to new churches and that a Church Planting Movement will take place here in the Dominican Republic."

For: (1) Life Commitment Sunday (P/LD Emphasis); (2) The Yoruba Team of Nigeria covets your prayers for H., an elderly blind woman who suffered severe burns last year and miraculously survived. Ask for H. and her daughter to be saved. Also pray for S., a deaf girl, and her family to be saved.

For: (1) Preaching & Worship Conference, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (P/LD); (2) James Cutter is an Air Force chaplain serving at the Air Education and Training Command. Pray for receptiveness to the gospel within the hearts of military personnel and their families.

For: (1) Preaching & Worship Conference, Main Street BC, Hattiesburg (P/LD); (2) FAITH Training, FBC, Saltville, noon (SS & Life Ways); (3) New Missionaries on the Holy Men Harvest Team in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, ask prayer for unbelievers in their apartment complex with over 1,000 people. Pray that these families will have a hunger to know Christ.

"Pray for a mother who has lost her husband and now her only child to AIDS," writes the Eastern Thailand Team. "The child attended a Saturday morning English class led by our workers in Pattaya. Pray for our workers as they attempt to reach this mother and the child's friends to let them know that life is always uncertain and without Christ, there is no hope."

For: (1) Children's Ministers' Retreat; Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 1-2 (Preschool/ Children's Team); (2) Pray for the FEBA Radio Middle East ministry as they broadcast over AM 1170 and short-wave radio the message of the gospel into southern Iraq. Pray that many will tune in and that lives will be changed.

For: (1) State Handbell Festival, Emmanuel BC, Grenada, 6 p.m., 25 - 1:30 p.m., 26 (CM); (2) Missionary Parent Fellowship, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 25-26 (WMU); (3) Hunger relief is currently missionary Greg Fort's main ministry in Zimbabwe. Pray that as physical bread is distributed, the Bread of Life will also be received.

For: (1) Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills, Kosciusko, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (MM); (2) Please pray for volunteers who will work among the Bagwere (pronounced bagweary) people of Uganda this summer. They will join the local believers in evangelism and help to train church leaders.

Singles Resolution

Friday, May 16, 7-9 p.m.

Morrison Heights Baptist Church
Clinton

Al Fike

Impersonator, Humorist from Texas

Cost: \$5 at the door

Singles Resolution Coffee House

Saturday, April 26, 6-9 p.m.

Ridgecrest Baptist Church
Madison

Cost: \$5 at the door

Coffee, soft drinks,
hors d'oeuvres

Gene Fortenberry

Musical guest

Music and
lots of fun

J.J. Jasper
Humorist, AFR
Tupelo

For more info contact: Glenn Shows, 601-292-3373
or 1-800-748-1651, MBCB Discipleship & Family
Ministry Dept.

Mission Possible

ALT - Garaywa
May 16-17

Enjoy "Meals with a Mission"

Special guest **STUART CALVERT**

DINNER, 5-7 p.m., Friday

BREAKFAST, 8-9:30 a.m., Saturday

LUNCH, 12:15-1:30 p.m., Saturday

"Mission Possible" is the Mississippi WMU theme for Leadership Development in 2003. Come prepare for this year's "assignment" through Associational and Church WMU Leadership Training. Preregistration is required. For more information, contact the state WMU office at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 316.

HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Little and Freeman

Jack Wilkes, First Church, Tunica, has completed 42 years serving on the Executive Board of the North Delta Baptist Association. Wilkes is a deacon and a board member for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

First Church, Runnelstown, recently licensed **Dusty Little** and **Hal Hood**, youth minister, into the ministry. Pictured (from left) are Little and Henry Freeman, pastor; and Hood and Freeman.

Robbie Pigg, minister of music at Farmhaven Church, Canton, received a diploma in church music degree from Jimmy McCaleb during a recent morning service. McCaleb taught the music courses for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Charles Gentry is pastor. Pictured (from

left) are Gentry, McCaleb, and Pigg.

Fairview Church, Indianola, ordained **Charles Davis** as a deacon on March 23. Pictured (from left) are Joe Miller, Stacey Blake, pastor, Davis, his wife Linda, and Buddy Smith.

Glade Church, Laurel, held a groundbreaking for a new worship center on January 26. Mike Thompson is pastor.



Glade Church Groundbreaking, Laurel

First Church, Sledge, held a deacon ordination service on March 30. Pictured (from left) are M.C. Johnson, Vernon Reans, Robert Jones, John Parker, pastor, Randy Kendall, and J.C. Jenkins.

Bethel Church, Water Valley, will present the musical *Majesty* on April 20 at 6 p.m. under the direction of Laramie Minga.

Antioch Church, Union, will present an Easter Cantata on April 21 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 986-8771.



Johnson, Reans, Jones, Parker, pastor; Kendall, and Jenkins



Hood and Freeman

Marion School, recently presented the colors at Society Hill Church, Oakvale. Colonel Duane VanFleet was the special speaker. Pictured are the Civil Air Patrol and VanFleet with his wife Gail.



Duane & Gail VanFleet



Miller, Blake, Charles & Linda Davis, and Smith



Gentry, McCaleb, and Pigg



Civil Air Patrol, East Marion School

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REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Liberty Church, Raleigh: April 20-23; Easter Sunday, 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; J. Garland McGee, evangelist; Bo and Stephanie Sullivan, music; Norris Ables, pastor.

Linwood, Union: April 27-30; Sunday-Wed., 7 p.m.; Hardy Denham, speaking; Tal Vardaman, music; all are welcome.

New Haven, Weir: April 27-30; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Foles, Double Springs, Maben, evangelist; Sue Rogers, Lollars Grove, Eupora, music; A. Harvie Jackson, pastor.

Carson Ridge, Ethel: April 27; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch at noon, afternoon singing; B. J. Jenkins, music; Bobby G. Oakes, pastor.

Silver Springs, Osyka: April 27; Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., dinner on grounds; Byron Wilkinson, speaking.

First, Boyle: May 18; Sunday, 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Ronnie Wilburn, guest pastor; Cory Hays, song leader; Immanuel Quartet, Greenville, music; bring a covered lunch dish; Joseph Anderson, pastor.

Foxworth First, Foxworth: June 1; 11 a.m., dinner at noon, afternoon singing; J. Wilbur Hall, Lucedale, speaking; Steve Warren, Horn Lake, music; Greg Forbus, pastor.

First, Magnolia: April 20-23; Sunday-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Barry Ward, pastor.

Faith, Jackson: April 27-30; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Gordon Sansing, evangelist; Tim Ruth, music; Greg Wolfe, pastor; services will be held at Wesley Biblical Seminary.



Stubblefield

has served First Church, Shreveport, La., for over 13 years.

Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, has called **Jon Stubblefield** as pastor. Stubblefield has served

Tom Huebner, an assistant professor of communication and director of forensics at William Carey College, was appointed to the Pi Kappa Delta Speech and Debate National Council at the national tournament held recently in Baltimore, Maryland.

The William Carey College chapter of Alpha Chi received two honors at the national college honor society's national convention in Washington, D.C. recently. WCC was one of only 32



Gray

joined the Annuity Board staff as the multicultural relationship manager. Rojas will be responsible for coordinating

New Home Church, Lena, has called **Mark Gray** as pastor.

Kevy V. Rojas recently

Alpha Chi chapters to receive a Star Chapter Award. The other recognition came when WCC faculty member Read Diket received the 2003 Alpha Chi Distinguished Service Award.

Seven students will be named **William Carey College** Scholars and honored at an awards dinner planned for this summer on the Hattiesburg campus. The scholars are Megan Harvey, Ocean Springs; Lacey Hobbs, Brandon; Christopher Knight,



Rojas

the Annuity Board's educational and marketing efforts with ethnic churches and ministers throughout the Southern Baptist

Petal; Chancellor Massey, Sandhill; Matthew McHan, Stringer; Jesse Smith, Seminary; and Rachel Whitehead, Sumrall.

The **Winters School of Music at William Carey College (WCC)** will present Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah* on April 22 at 7:30 p.m. at First Church, Hattiesburg. For more information, call (601) 318-6175.

Visit the Baptist Record online at www.mbeb.org



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SPECIAL PARTNERS

Editor:

Several years ago an idea developed for churches from two sister associations to work together in partnership relationships. Mississippi Baptists have been involved in partnerships across the U.S. and the world for many years. Often the small churches felt they could not participate, especially in large numbers, because of the cost of such ventures. The question was raised, "If we can partner with churches on the other side of the globe or on the other side of America, why can't we partner with churches on the other side of the county line?"

Warren and Yazoo Associations already have a partnership agreement in which they share an associational missions director (AMD). Many months of discussions and planning went into the development of a limited partnership plan where two churches — one from each association — would partner with each other. Three churches from Yazoo Association and two churches from Warren Association responded.

Among the events planned by these churches are a three-way Youth Mission Weekend at Short Creek Church, Yazoo City, on April 25-26, and a youth-led revival at Short Creek Church on April 27-30. Both events will be led by Lee Clark, minister of youth at Short Creek Church. Please pray for both events.

The pastors of the three participating churches are Dwight Sibley at Calvary Church, Vicksburg; Richard Colwell at Calvary Church, Yazoo City; and Allen Balliet at Short Creek Church.

God is not limited by distance, or lack of distance. He is only limited by our unwillingness to get involved.

Billy Dowdy, AMD

Warren/Yazoo Associations
Vicksburg/Yazoo City

WAIT ON HCSB

Editor:

I received a courtesy call from LifeWay last week to make me aware of changes to be made in the upcoming year's literature. One of the changes really causes me great concern. Beginning fall of 2003, the NIV will be replaced with the new Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) in all of LifeWay's literature. The NIV will no longer be available.

This causes me concern on several fronts. First, since the completed HCSB will not be ready till summer of 2004, this seems too soon to be practical. Secondly, and most regrettably, the tactic smacks of the old "bait and switch" of unethical business practice. It seems LifeWay desires to develop a ready market for its new HCSB by incorporating it in our literature.

They obviously feel they can force us to accept their new translation by holding our churches hostage to their literature. A representative of LifeWay assured me they were not holding us hostage and they understand we can buy our literature from any source we choose. This may be true in fact but not in reality. A move to lead a church away from Southern Baptist Convention literature could spell the end for a pastor and at the least cause no small conflict in the church.

I personally have no problem with the HCSB, yet I urge LifeWay to wait till the HCSB is released fully and the new translation gain acceptability in our churches before replacing the NIV.

Chester Carlisle, pastor
Ethel Church, Ethel

DEVISIVE TIMES

Editor:

Please be advised that I read your editorial most every week and very much enjoy doing so. The April 10 editorial (Christians:

called to divisiveness) is especially pertinent to Christians today. Most Christians, or so it appears to me, do not want to rock the boat; therefore, they do nothing thinking they are doing what is best for all. I beg to differ. One quote to emphasize this is "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing" (Sir Edmund Burke, 19th English statesman and philosopher).

More pertinent is from James 4:17 where we are told "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin". Now I know that we have some/maybe many who go overboard with things in the name of religion, but if we can square our actions up with the Holy Bible then we should be about the business of the Master, including times when it calls for divisiveness.

Thanks for the timely article, and I appreciate the work you folks do.

Danny R. Shows
Moselle

KUDOS TO STUDENTS

Editor:

Recently I had the opportunity to see some Mississippi high school and college students experience a spring break with substance. They did not spend the week basking on the sunny beaches of Gulf Shores or skiing the powder snow of the Colorado Rockies. The students spent their entire week investing into the city of New Orleans. These missionaries ministered to the children, citizens, and local churches of our great city. The homeless and travelers in the French Quarter were even ministered to through survey work, hygiene packs, sandwiches, and bottled water! I was encouraged to know that high school and college students were willing to give up their Spring Break to

join God at work in the city of New Orleans.

On behalf of MissionLab New Orleans, a ministry of New Orleans Seminary, I would like to thank the following groups for their investment:

- Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union (BSU) in Blue Mountain. Tracy Moser, director.

- Ole Miss BSU in Oxford. Stephen Rogers, group leader.

- First Church, Corinth. Jim Yates, student minister.

- Noxapater Church, Noxapater. Dan Pritchett, student minister.

Southern Baptists in Mississippi should be proud of these students and their leaders. It was a pleasure having them on our seminary campus and an honor to work alongside them for the glory of God.

Byron Townsend, assoc. dir.
MissionLab New Orleans

HURT SOME FEELINGS

Editor:

I have listened to people say we can't do anything about different things happening in our country, until I am sick of it. No, we can't do anything about it if we sit back and keep our mouths shut. It is time for Christians to start speaking out on sin. If we don't, America is going to be destroyed. We don't know every sin committed, but some sins are open to us and what do we say? "Well, that's okay. It's them. It doesn't concern us." If we who claim to be Christians don't speak up, these people are going to die and wake up burning in hell.

I am speaking of gays and lesbians. Read the Bible, starting with Genesis chapters one and two. God made man and woman, and woman was made for man - not man for man or woman for woman. I'm not judging but (homosexuals and lesbians) are going to hell, no doubt about it.

Do you want these people's blood on your hands? I don't. We won't speak out because we don't want to hurt their feelings, but I would rather hurt their feelings on earth than to have them burn in hell forever because I was afraid to point them to Romans chapter one. I didn't say it; God said it.

Wake up and do what God says. Speak out and stand up for what is right whether it hurts feelings or not. That's the job God gave us. That's why we're here.

Virginia Broom
Oakvale



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Resurrection and the Life

John 11:1-4, 21-27, 38-40, 43-44

By Lori Clendinning

Over 50 years ago George Kaufman and Moss Hart created the Broadway comedy "You Can't Take It With You." It portrayed the actions of a zany family who abided by the philosophy: life is too short, therefore live it to the fullest, for you can't take anything with you when you die.

Many people in our secular world embrace this philosophy, seeing no hope or belief in life after death. At best, they hope to pass on their name and reputation through their descendants.

In the biblical worldview, death is reality. Physical life ends in death, but personal existence continues. Jesus Christ overcame death through His resurrection, and all who believe in Him as Savior receive eternal life and will be

raised after death to live forever.

His power over death was evident in His own life, as well as the life of others: Jairus' daughter in Mark 5:21-43, the widow of Nain's son, recorded in Luke 7:11-17, and the resurrection of Lazarus, the topic of this week's lesson.

Lazarus' resurrection is only found in John's Gospel, as Matthew, Mark, and Luke did not record it. Some Bible scholars believe that it was for the protection of Lazarus' life that they did not. John's record, written much later than the other three Gospels, is believed to have been written after the deaths of Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary.

Raising Lazarus from the dead was the seventh miraculous sign recorded in John's Gospel.

The six other signs are the miracle at the wedding of Cana when



Clendinning

the healing in Jerusalem of the man born blind (John 9).

This seventh miracle took place about a month before Jesus' own death and resurrection.

Jesus' fondness for Lazarus and his two maiden sisters is evident for He was a frequent guest in their home in Bethany.

After the Feast of Dedication, Jesus had left Judea for a less hostile region on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was there, upon hearing of Lazarus' death, Jesus chose to linger for two more days before heading to Bethany.

Any time God appears to linger before working His miracle in our lives, it is always for His purposes: to receive more glory for the impossible task that

Jesus turned the water into wine (John 2), the healing of the official's son at Capernaum (John 4), the healing of the sick at the Bethesda pool in Jerusalem (John 5), the feeding of the five thousand on the banks of the Galilean Sea (John 6), the walking on water on that same sea (John 6:16ff), and

He is capable of doing.

After four days, Lazarus' resurrection was very dramatic. A true miracle of God, it was witnessed by many, for whom there was no other explanation: Only God resurrects.

According to Bible commentaries, our English word "resurrection" is translated from the Greek word "anastasis," a derivative of the verb "anistēnē" which means to "stand up" or "rise up."

The word "anastasis" is used four times by John and another 38 times in the other New Testament writings.

Most often, the word refers to the physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus in the past and the physical, bodily resurrection of believers in the future, as noted in I Corinthians 15:42, Philippians 3:11, and Revelation 20:5-6.

This "anastasis," this resurrection, was the final miracle that brought the Sanhedrin to gather for a secret meeting and election to kill Jesus. Their anger burned against Jesus and they could no longer bear the young rabbi's presence among their people.

The irony is that they plotted

with all their earthly power to put to death the one man who showed He had heavenly power over death itself. How ridiculous their meetings, plottings, and secret vote-takings must have looked to the all-seeing host of Heaven.

Despite man's philosophies and attempts to explain away Biblical truth, God will be glorified. Sickness and death are realities, and only God, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, provides a way of escape for us.

Like Martha, we must come to a place where we believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Resurrection and the Life. We are called by Christ to move beyond repeating statements of conviction about Him to expressing a personal faith in Him as the One who is sovereign over death. Our hope is in Christ Jesus who reigns victorious over death. He is the Resurrection and the Life!

Joyous Easter to all who believe!

Clendinning is member of First Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Focus on the Risen Savior

Luke 24:1-9, 36-40, 44-49

By Harold Simmons

Introduction: In this lesson we move our attention from the kings of the Old Testament to the King of the New Testament. We move to focus on the resurrection of Jesus, our savior. Angles gave verbal announcement to the women who came to the tomb that Jesus had risen. Visual and verbal evidence is given by the risen Lord of his resurrection. He also takes the time to explain the significance of his resurrection to the women along with a charge to be witnesses of what they have seen and heard.

Announcing the Resurrection (Luke 24:1-9) Very early in the morning the women came toward the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with various aromatic spices to retard the smell of His decaying flesh. Along the way they talked about the heavy stone closure. "Who will roll away the stone for us?" (Mark 16:3). They were concerned about the weight of the

stone as well as the authorization to open the tomb because a seal had been placed upon it by the authorities. Imagine their wonder when they found the stone already rolled away when they arrived.

They found an empty tomb even more incredible. Then, suddenly, there were two beings that looked like men but were not dressed like anything the women had ever seen. In verse 24, the women identified the men as angels. The angels announced that Jesus was risen from the dead. As the angels gave a verbal announcement of the resurrection, they called the women to remember the words of Jesus about His coming death and resurrection. They might not trust the words of someone they did not know about such a wondrous event, but they knew and trusted Jesus. Indeed, the writer showed that the women did recall the words of Jesus (v 8). Remembering the words of Jesus



Simmons

brought them back to reality like a slap!

Upon their return to the group, the women told everything "to the Eleven (disciples) and the others (at least part of the 120 other believers)." How could they keep from relating the story because it was so wonderful. In fact how can we

keep such great news to ourselves! We, too, are to announce the resurrection. Even though we are more removed in time from the event, the news is just as vital and exciting.

Giving Evidence of the Resurrection (Luke 24:36-40) Jesus had met two disciples on the way to Emmaus. They were so preoccupied by the turn of events that they were "kept from recognizing Jesus." (v.16) After they had fellowship with Jesus at a meal, "their eyes were opened and they recognized him." After God revealed the Master to them, they made the return trip to Jerusalem even though it was very late in the day. They were men on a mission and that mission was to relate the news that they had seen and talked with the risen Lord.

As the men of Emmaus related the experience with Jesus to the

others who were gathered, Jesus appeared in their midst without even opening the door. This action of Jesus almost scared the gathered group out of their wits. Jesus also asked them about their doubts. Evidently, the people were having trouble believing their eyes. The evidence in their eyes did not coincide with the evidence in their minds. When I was in High School, I attended the Midsouth Fair in Memphis. At this fair there was a show that advertised a man without a head. I wanted to see this. Sure enough there before my eyes was a man without a head, but my mind gave evidence that a person could not live without a head. After a few moments, the man removed an apparatus of mirrors to show us the deception. What the disciples saw was no deception. This is real!

Further, Jesus invited the gathered to touch Him to know for a certainty that He was no ghost. Jesus added to the evidence by asking for, receiving, and eating some food in their sight. The resurrection is real. Do you have honest doubts? Jesus will give convincing evidence to you by opening your understanding and by letting you see changed lives.

Explaining the Significance

(Luke 24: 44-49) Jesus did not leave the people in a state of wonderment. He gave them help by explaining the significance of his resurrection. He first reminded them of his previous words and pointed them to scripture. Everything written about Him must be fulfilled from the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. These are the divisions of all the Old Testament for the Jews. Then, he opened their understanding of the scripture. Jesus does that very thing today for people who seek Him and are perplexed about what they read and hear from the scripture about His resurrection.

Jesus then announced that the people would be His witnesses but warned them to wait for what the Father had promised them in the way of empowerment. The promised one (the Holy Spirit) is the one who will enable them to explain Christ to others. Once again, this is the way He operates today. He will show us ways to lead the lost to Christ.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Simmons is the pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

news items that are subject to editing, and that are subject to cropping.

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News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message section of an e-mail form. Due to increasing spam threats,

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Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Michael Lane Albritton
Mr. & Mrs. Freddie L. Jones

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Mrs. Opal Ashley
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Mr. Kenneth Thompson
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Dungan Engineering P A
Winnie Barrett
Timmy & Linda Shaw
Mrs. Idell F. Beesley
Ms. Dorothy Ward
Mr. James Benefield
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Boatner
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Mr. & Mrs. John L. Prine
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Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Lila S. Brister
Mrs. Lorena B. Newman
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Mr. & Mrs. Ron K. Phillips
Mrs. Louise Bullock
Philene & Stuart Allen
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Ted & Kay Cummins
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Mr. & Mrs. Miles Jeffery
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Ray & Barbara Ford Family
Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Williams

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Mrs. Kathleen Mason
Ms. Martha McGriff
Ms. Evelyn K. Posner
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Mr. Mike Dent
Green Eye Institute, P.A.

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Mr. & Mrs. Lendon E. Brown
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Morton
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Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Crocker
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Ms. Roma May Donnell
Mr. & Mrs. Bart Galloway
Dr. & Mrs. Julius Ratliff & Family
Mrs. Anne G. Aden
Rose Donnell
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip R. Hilton

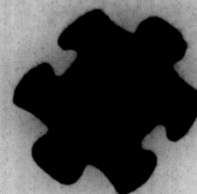
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Nordeman is big winner at Dove Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Nichole Nordeman won top honors at the 34th Annual Dove Awards, taking home trophies for Song of the Year, Songwriter of the Year, and Female Vocalist of the Year.

"In a well-furnished kitchen there are not only crystal goblets and silver platters, but waste cans and compost buckets — some containers used to serve fine meals, others to take out the garbage. Become the kind of container God can use to present any and every kind of gift to his guests for their blessing," Nordeman said, quoting from The Message paraphrase of 2 Timothy 2:20-21, as she accepted the female vocalist of the year award.

Nordeman, who captured the same award in 2001, said many performers are much finer china or crystal, but she considers it a privilege to serve beside all of them.

Nordeman's Holy was named Song of the Year and Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year. Her Woven & Spun was named Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year, and Nordeman joined other artists in receiving the award for Special Event Album of the Year for City on a Hill — Sing Alleluia. In all, Nordeman had eight nominations in six categories and took home six awards.

Also honored for his contributions to the Gospel Music Association was Michael W. Smith. Smith was named Male Vocalist of the Year and Artist of the Year. He has won at least one Dove in every year since 1989, and after also claiming Doves for Praise & Worship Album and Long Form Music Video, his total number of Doves rose to 40.

Third Day took home honors for Group of the Year for the third straight year after finishing one of the most successful touring years of any artist in 2002.

The group was the only artist in any genre to have two tours on Pollstar's year-end Top 100 Tours list, with both the Come Together tour and the Come Together and Worship tour with Michael W. Smith mak-

ing the list. Pollstar is a mainstream concert-tracking service. Also nominated for Group of the Year were Audio Adrenaline, MercyMe, Selah, and Sixpence None the Richer.

Third Day also won Rock Recorded Song of the Year for 40 Days from their Come Together album and joined other artists in honors for Special Event Album of the Year for City on a Hill — Sing Alleluia. Last year Third Day joined the Imperials, First Call, 4HIM, and Jars of Clay as the only recipients of consecutive Group of the Year Dove Awards.

In February, Third Day received a Grammy for Rock Gospel Album of the Year for Come Together. Their latest release, a worship album called Offerings II: All I Have to Give, debuted at number 18 on the Billboard Top 200 Albums chart.

Following is an incomplete list of Dove Award winners.

- Song of the Year: Holy; Nichole Nordeman, Mark Hammond; Ariose Music, Mark Hammond Music (ASCAP)

- Songwriter of the Year: Nichole Nordeman

- Male Vocalist: Michael W. Smith

- Female Vocalist: Nichole Nordeman

- Group: Third Day

- Artist: Michael W. Smith

- New Artist: Paul Colman Trio

- Producer: Brown Bannister

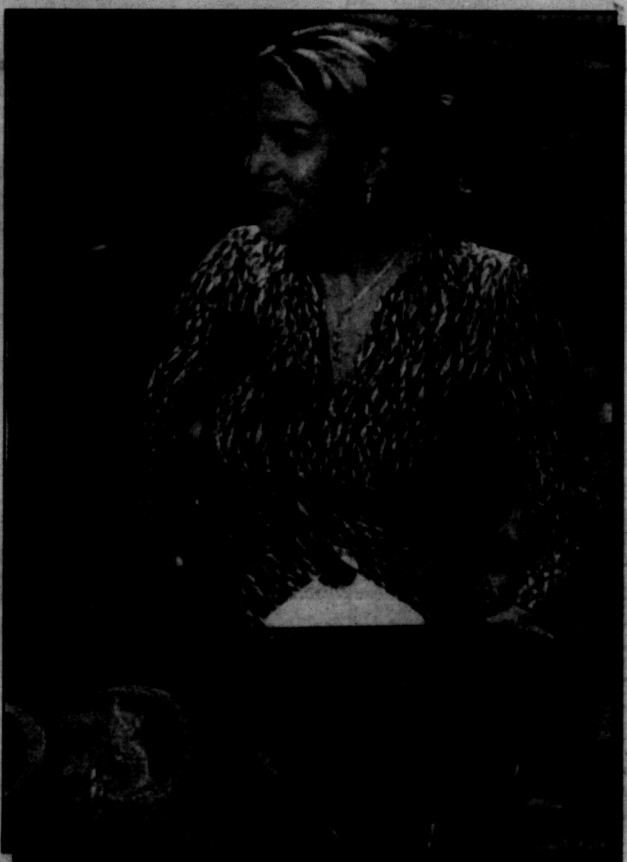
- Rap/Hip Hop/Dance Recorded Song: All Around the World; The Fault Is History; Souljahz; Joshua Washington, Je'kob Washington & Rachael Washington, Chris Rodriguez; Warner Brothers

- Modern Rock/Alternative Recorded Song: Breathe Your Name; Divine Discontent; Sixpence None the Richer; Matt Slocum; Reprise

- Hard Music Recorded Song: Boom; Satellite; P.O.D.; P.O.D. (Traa, Sonny, Marcos, Wuv) Paul Sandoval, Marco Curiel, Mark Traa, Noah Bernardo; Atlantic

- Rock Recorded Song: 40 Days; Come Together; Third Day; Mac Powell, Brad Avery, David Carr, Mark Lee, Tai Anderson; Essential

- Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song: Holy; Woven & Spun; Nichole Nordeman; Nichole Nordeman, Mark Hammond; Sparrow



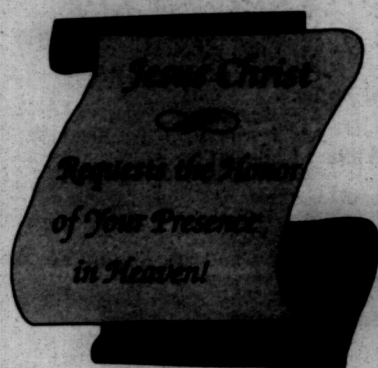
Nordeman

- Inspirational Recorded Song: Here I Am To Worship; Here I Am To Worship; Tim Hughes; Tim Hughes; Worship Together

- Southern Gospel Recorded Song: Don't You Wanna Go?; A Crabb Collection; The Crabb Family; Gerald Crabb; Family Music Group

- Bluegrass Recorded Song: Walkin' and Talkin'; 50th Anniversary; The Lewis Family; Wayne Haun, Joel Lindsey; Thoroughbred

Editor's note: The Dove Awards will air at 8 p.m. April 19 on the PAX network.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



Audio Adrenaline